

Department of Geology, Annual Report 1991-92
by
K.K. Mukherji, Chair

1991-92 marks successful completion of another academic year. The department maintained the same level of teaching, research and other related activities as in the previous year. The report will only mention important aspects of departmental operation during the past year.

1. Space

Space remains an unresolved issue, administration has not released the long assigned additional laboratory and research areas to the department. Also, the possibility of future department relocation at the SGW Campus makes any kind of long term space planning at the Loyola Campus difficult. With the appointment of two new full-time faculty members department would certainly require at least additional faculty research space for the new academic year.

2. Technician

Due to budgetary reason the appointment of the second full-time technician is put on hold. With the addition of two new faculty there will be increased job demand for technical assistance. As a temporary measure, the present 1 1/2 technical personnel may provide the minimum level of required technical assistance but the question of the second full-time technician needs to be resolved in the coming year.

3. Faculty Appointment

Department announces two tenure track faculty appointments. Dr. Judith Patterson is joining the department in August '92. She is expected to develop courses in areas of Environmental Study. Dr. Colleen Elliott has been appointed as structural geologist, with her broad experience in global tectonics and structure, departmental activities in these fields will be greatly strengthened. Department extends warmest welcome to newly appointed members.

4. Enrollment

Programme registration in geology remained steady with a 6.3% increase to 67 (21 females, 46 males). Registration in general interest courses stands at 585 (191 female; 394 male) compared to 581 in the previous year. No significant change in student registration is expected for the coming year.

5. Capital Purchase

Department acquired a Cathodoluminescope and a Nikon Stereo Zoom Binocular microscope. Equipments are installed for use in research and teaching by the faculty. Unfortunately, the SEM unit has not been brought to full functional capacity yet. However, the imaging system was used by Mukherji for one lab in Geology 413. The department is considering alternative means of sharing a part-time technician with other department to operate the unit.

6. External Technical Services

Inspec Sol Inc. and Desitech Co. requested professional assistance to evaluate aggregates used in major constructional projects. Mukherji assisted these organizations. A total of \$1395 in professional fees has been deposited in various departmental accounts.

7. Faculty Workload

Five full-time members offered 17 courses with a total of 57 credits. Seven PT instructors taught 10 courses (30 credits).

8. Graduation and Programme Registration Trend

16 students (14 male; 2 female) graduated in the last academic year. Specialization programmes in Geology (18), Ecology (13) and Major (20) programme had the largest student enrollment, other programmes shared rest of the registrants.

9. Awards

1. Ms. Shirley McCuaig: Andre Deland Geology Medal. Best Graduating Student.
Also received NSERC Graduate Award.
2. Mr. Gary de Schutter: Geology Dept. Special Award.
Best second year student.
3. Mr. Michael Thomas: Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Slipper Award. Student with best performance in sedimentary geology related fields.
4. Mr. Shahe Shnorhokian: Geological Association of Canada Award. Strong performance in 2nd year geology programme.
5. Mr. Derrick Strickland: Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, Student Industry Field Trip Award. Chosen by the CSPG.
6. Mr. Robert Taylor: Mineralogical Association of Canada Award. Best student in Mineralogy.

10. Department Seminars

Seven seminars were given by invited speakers and department faculty. The list of speakers and seminar titles are listed below:

Dr. S. Kumarapeli (Concordia Univ): Signatures of Mantle Plumes and Continental Rifting: examples from our Part of the World.

Dr. Hynes (McGill Univ): Gravity Fields and Tectonics of the Hudson Bay Arc.

- Dr. H.J. Hofmann (Univ. of Montreal): What's New in the Precambrian Zoo.
- Dr. D.R. Vebelan (Johns Hopkins Univ.): Min. Soc. America Speaker. Rock forming Minerals at 1,000,000 X: Can we See Atoms yet?
- Dr. Pujing Pan (McGill Univ.): The Application of Spectroscopic Methods to Trace Metal Pollution in Natural Waters.
- Dr. Steven Cheung (Concordia Univ.): Disposal of Radioactive Waste in Canada.
- Dr. C. Marcel-Hillaire (Univ. du Quebec a Montreal): Geological Dimension of Global Change.

11. Exhibition and Community Activity

The Department of Geology participated in the Annual Concordia Science Exhibition at Stewart Hall in Point Claire. Prof. Jenkins visited Vanier College for student recruitment. Profs. Kumarapeli and Mukherji organized the display and seminar in connection with the Concordia Science Exploration week in April.

12. Research Publications

Four faculty members received a total of \$32,633 (1 full-time and 2 adjunct) from NSERC and \$5320 (2 full-time) of internal funding. There has been 9.4% increase in total research funding from the previous year (\$34,400).

Five faculty members (3 full-time, 1 part-time and 2 adjunct) published 9 papers in refereed journals and presented 16 papers in various conferences.

13. Student Activity

Geology club organized a four day trip to Sudbury, Ontario and one day trip to the National Seismological Centre in Ottawa. Drs. Abdel-Rahman and Mukherji assisted in the organization and running of the field trip in Sudbury. The Geology Club arranged four social get-togethers, the Department partially subsidized all events.

14. Faculty Retirement

The department held a reception in honour of Dr. D.J. McDougall for his retirement after 36 years of valuable contribution in teaching, research and administration. Members of the department wish him many years of good health and scholarly activity.

15. Meetings

Department had 4 departmental and 4 special meetings to dispose of various business during the past academic year.